

Appl. No. : 10/662,002
Filed : September 12, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently amended)** A therapeutic composition for topical application, consisting essentially of:

a sphingolipid long-chain base present at from about 0.01 to 5.0% and lysophosphatidic acid present at from about 0.001 to 1.0%,

wherein the ~~shingolipid~~ sphingolipid long-chain base is one or more selected from the group consisting of ~~phyteshingosine~~ phytosphingosine, acetylphytosphingosine, tetraacetyl phytosphingosine, ~~hexanoylphyteshingosine~~ hexanoylphytosphingosine and acetylphytosphingosine phosphate.

2. **Cancelled**

3. **Cancelled**

4. **Cancelled**

5. **(Currently amended)** A therapeutic composition for topical application, consisting essentially of:

30 to 90% by weight of a substrate or a carrier for skin application;

0.01 to 5.0% by weight sphingolipid long-chain base;

0.001 to 1.0% by weight lysophosphatidic acid;

and 1.0 to 40% by weight of organic or inorganic additives, wherein the ~~shingolipid~~ sphingolipid long-chain base is one or more selected from the group consisting of ~~phyteshingosine~~ phytosphingosine, acetylphytosphingosine, tetraacetyl phytosphingosine, ~~hexanoylphyteshingosine~~ hexanoylphytosphingosine and acetylphytosphingosine phosphate.

6. **(Original)** The therapeutic composition according to claim 5, wherein the organic additives contain ceramide, cholesterol and fatty acid.

7. **(Original)** The therapeutic composition according to claim 6, wherein the organic additives contain a weight ratio of ceramide: cholesterol: fatty acid of from about 40 to 60 % : from about 20 to 30 % : from about 20 to 30 %.

8. **(Original)** The therapeutic composition according to claim 5, wherein the ceramide comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of: ceramide 3 ceramide 6,

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and a mixture thereof, and wherein the ceramide has the same stereochemical composition as the ceramide in human skin lipids.

9. **(Original)** The therapeutic composition according to claim 1, wherein the lysophosphatidic acid is one or more selected from the group consisting of lyso-stearoyl phosphatidic acid (18:0), lyso-oleoyl phosphatidic acid (18:1), lyso-palmitoyl phosphatidic acid (16:0) and natural lyso-phosphatidic acid derived from egg yolk or beans.

10. **Cancelled**

11. **Cancelled**

12. **(Original)** The therapeutic composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is formulated into a form selected from the group consisting of: a cream, a lotion, an ointment, a skin toner, an essence, a body wash, and a shampoo.